

AGENDA ITEM VI A

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

REPORT ON THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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REPORT ON THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

STAFF COMMENTS

All meetings for the Blue Ribbon Commission were cancelled for fall 2005. The Blue Ribbon Commission is scheduled to meet on the following dates during spring 2006: February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11, 2006. The focus of the meetings will be the revision of the Teacher Preparation Accountability System.

AGENDA ITEM VI B

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

**EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION
PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND
EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

AGENDA ITEM VI B

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Redesigned alternate certification programs, regular undergraduate teacher preparation programs, graduate programs for teachers, and graduate programs for educational leaders were submitted to the Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during November 2001 for Cycle One Evaluations, April 2002 for Cycle Two Evaluations, September 2002 for Cycle Three Evaluations, February 2003 for Cycle Four Evaluations, March 2004 for Cycle Five Evaluations, September 2004 for Cycle Six Evaluations, and February 18, 2005 for Cycle Seven Evaluations. These programs were assessed by external evaluators, and reports which contained the recommendations of the external evaluators were disseminated during January 2002, June 2002, December 2002, April 2003, April 2004, December 2004, and May 2005.

STAFF COMMENTS

During the month of October 2005, the BoR/BESE/LAICU Program Review Committee will be reviewing recommendations submitted by representatives of the Board of Regents and Louisiana Department of Education pertaining to the acceptance of university responses to stipulations of the external evaluations. The final recommendations of the committee will be presented at the October meeting for the Board of Regents.

AGENDA ITEM VI C

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

EXTENSION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF REDESIGNED K-12 AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM VI C

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

EXTENSION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF REDESIGNED K-12 AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the beginning of the redesign process, a deadline date of July 1, 2005 was set for all universities to attain final approval of redesigned university programs in the following areas:

- 1) Grades K-12 baccalaureate degrees and alternate certification programs in art, vocal music, instrumental music, vocal and instrumental music, health and physical education, and foreign languages;
- 2) Master's degrees for teachers; and
- 3) Master's degrees for educational leaders plus Teacher Leader Endorsements and Alternate Paths for Educational Leaders.

Due to delays in scheduling the external evaluators to review the programs and delays in disseminating the evaluation reports to universities during spring 2005, the Board of Regents approved a request during May 2005 to extend the approval process for one semester, which would provide campuses sufficient time to address stipulations, resubmit redesigned programs that had not been approved, and recruit candidates for enrollment in programs that would start at the beginning of the spring 2006 semester.

STAFF COMMENTS

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, six teacher preparation programs at universities in New Orleans have been closed. It has not been possible for faculty within the universities to meet to address the stipulations of external evaluators, finalize documents for initial submission, or recruit candidates into redesigned programs that have been approved. In addition, a decision was made by the Board of Regents to cancel the external review process of redesigned university programs during fall 2005 due to the immediate need to address the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, travel difficulties for external consultants and university/district partners, and the freeze on issuing contracts. Therefore, it was not possible for campuses to submit redesigned programs for approval prior to the start of the spring 2006 semester.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant an extension for approval of all redesigned K-12 and graduate programs for teachers and educational leaders to July 1, 2006.

AGENDA ITEM VII D

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

WAIVER FOR TEACHER PREPARATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

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TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

WAIVER FOR TEACHER PREPARATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In compliance with the Higher Education Act of 1998, a Teacher Preparation Accountability System was adopted by the Board of Regents to assess the performance of teacher preparation programs within the state. During the last four years, the quantity of program completers at each institution and the performance of each institution (e.g., performance of regular and alternate certification students on the state teachers' examination and ratings by regular program completers of their satisfaction of their teacher preparation programs) were assessed. During fall 2006, the system was to be expanded by gathering data from mentors of regular programs pertaining to the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs in preparing new teachers.

STAFF COMMENTS

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, many new teachers and the mentors of new teachers have been displaced and are either not teaching during fall 2005 or are temporarily teaching in other locations until they can return to their assigned school. In addition, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has provided school districts the option of not enrolling new teachers in the state's Teacher Assistance and Assessment Program during 2005-2006 due to more essential priorities that are having to be addressed by school districts due to Hurricane Katrina. Therefore, a state system will not be in place during 2005-06 to track all new teachers and their mentors to administer the new teacher survey and mentor survey which is used to calculate the Teacher Preparation Performance Score for the Teacher Preparation Accountability System.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee waive the implementation of the Teacher Preparation Accountability System during AY 2005-06 due to the state's inability to collect data from K-12 schools necessary for the calculation of system-wide scores. All teacher preparation programs will be required to prepare institutional reports for April 2006 and report other data required by the Higher Education Act of 1998.